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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The report [a] of the Chief Conservator of Forests with its enclosure is appended.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the agricultural implements were supplied to a very little extent in East and South Kurnool divisions, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to order that the contractor should supply at the stipulated rates not merely at the edge of the coupes but elsewhere also ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I shall consider the suggestion, Sir."

Appointment of a committee to enquire into the forest grievances of ryots in this Presidency.

*286 *Q.*—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what action he has decided to take on the resolution of this Council that a committee should be appointed to inquire into the forest grievances of the ryots in this Presidency ?

A.—The Government do not at present propose to take any action.

Improvement of the financial prospects of the Chenat Nair and Mount Stuart forests.

*287 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for improving the financial prospects of the Chenat Nair and Mount Stuart forests ?

A.—The question of the improvement of the financial prospects of Mount Stuart forests is now under consideration. As regards Chenat Nair, the Government have ordered that the Olavakkode Saw Mill should be closed with effect from 1st November 1929.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABAPATHI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know how the Government propose to dispose of the Saw Mill after the 1st November 1929 ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" That is under consideration ; this is a point on which the Government have not come to a conclusion yet."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Apart from the Saw Mill, may I know what will become of the other operations of this scheme ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The whole thing is connected with the Saw Mill. There is no other scheme."

Commercial undertakings in the Forest department.

*288 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased

(i) to furnish a list of the various schemes under the Forest department which are treated as commercial undertakings ; and

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[a] Printed as Appendix XII on pages 583–588 infra.

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(ii) to state how many, if any, out of commercial undertakings in the Forest department ever worked with profit until the end of last year?

A.—(i) The list of commercial undertakings at present in the Forest department is—

(1) The Mount Stuart Working Circle.

(2) The Nilambur Valley Forests.

(3) The Chenat Nair Exploitation Scheme.

(ii) The Nilambur valley forest concern is working at a profit and the profit earned in 1927–28 is Rs. 1,94,837. The Mount Stuart working concern worked at a profit of Rs. 18,961 in 1925–26.

Employment of agents in England and other foreign countries for handling Madras timbers.

* 289 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the terms on which agents are employed in England and the other foreign countries for handling Madras timbers and finding markets for them;

(*b*) the terms on which Messrs. Howard Brothers & Co., London, were appointed as agents until last year; and

(*c*) whether Government propose to invite applications for the several agencies before filling up any of them?

A.—(*a*) There are no such agents now.

(*b*) The agency was terminated in December 1926. The Government do not propose to publish the terms now.

(*c*) No.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to clause (*b*) to my question as to the terms on which Messrs. Howard Brothers & Co. were appointed as agents, the reply is that the agency was terminated in December 1926 and that the Government do not propose to publish the terms now. May I know the reasons why?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Because the contract itself terminated in 1926 and it is not in the public interests to publish the terms now."

Forest Panchayats

Consideration of the Board's Standing Order regarding Forest Panchayats.

* 290 *Q.*—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Board's Standing Order regarding Forest Panchayats has been framed and considered by the Government;

(*b*) whether he is prepared to publish it for consideration by those affected; and

(*c*) whether he will state what it is?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The draft Standing Order is still under the consideration of the Government.

(*b*) The suggestion will be considered.